

September 4, 2002

**Public Notice for 401 Certification**  
**Horn Avenue Wetland Mitigation Bank, WDID No. 1B02091WNSO**  
Sonoma County

On June 24, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Charlie Patterson, Plant Ecologist, on behalf of Mr. Charlie Troboulsi, requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Horn Avenue Wetland Mitigation Bank Project in Sonoma County. The application was deemed complete on July 24, 2002. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated with seasonal wetland habitat within the Laguna Hydrologic Unit No. 114.21.

The proposed project is located at 464 Horn Avenue, between Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park, east of Highway 101, Sonoma County, California. The site and surrounding lands are located within the County designated "Community Separator" where no significant development is expected. The purpose of the project is to perform seasonal wetland restoration efforts on a 10-acre site in order to establish a Wetland Mitigation Bank.

The proposed project involves shallow grading, generally less than two feet deep, and up to a maximum of three, over roughly half the site to create/restore wetland features. Excavated soils will be removed from the site, although small amounts will be retained on-site to be used in the construction of upland mound areas. The grading activities will fill or otherwise eliminate 0.05 acre of man-made ditch-bottom seasonal wetland habitat. The existing habitat occurs in the form of several sections of small ditch, which will mainly be left in place and excavated downward less than one foot to create new wetland features. The existing wetland habitat is strictly ephemeral and non-aquatic (i.e. only saturated ground), providing only a small amount of habitat for amphibians or aquatic invertebrates. The overall bank project will result in the creation/restoration of approximately 5.05 acres of wetland habitat on the site. According to the application, the overall wetland habitat on the site will be greatly expanded upon and improved by the proposed project.

No rare, endangered, or otherwise sensitive species have been found on the site in two years of botanical surveys conducted by Mr. Patterson (site examinations have been conducted in April and May of 2001 and 2002, with negative results).

Grading methods will incorporate large scrapers and small bulldozers, and no soil will be imported. According to the application, grading will include progressive scraping of the surface as per the topographic design parameters of the site. No dewatering will be required, and no disposal of waste will occur on the site. There will be some temporary stockpiling of soil on the site, and standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be incorporated in order to reduce erosion potential. Grading activities are scheduled to take approximately six to eight weeks.

The total area of wetlands to be permanently filled and/or altered is approximately 0.05 acre. A Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal has been developed to offset the impacts to wetlands.

Mitigation for this project will not be required because the overall project results in a net enhancement of the existing wetland habitat through creation and/or restoration of 5.05 acres of seasonal wetland habitat on the site. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include standard erosion control BMPs which will be incorporated in order to reduce erosion potential.

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, is currently in the process of conducting CEQA review. The applicant has also applied to the COE for a Section 404 permit, which is pending at this time. According to the applicant, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game is not required for the project because no stream habitat is present on the site.

The project is scheduled to begin upon issuance of the Water Quality Certification, during the fall of 2002, and will proceed for approximately six to eight weeks. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at [jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.